

FOOTHILL SLOPE  
DESERT GRASSLAND  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as gently to moderately sloping fans and terraces of outwash materials at the base of igneous hills and mountains. Slopes range from 1 to 6 percent. Elevations usually range from 3000 to 5000 feet.
2. SOILS:
  - a. The gravelly and stony loam soils are shallow to moderately deep. They are well drained, slowly to moderately permeable with good plant-soil-air-water relationships. Available water holding capacity is medium and surface runoff is moderate.
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:  
Limpia and Mitre soils gently sloping
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. The climax vegetation is dominated by drought tolerant short and mid grasses of the bunch and stoloniferous types, with mixtures of forbs and occasional woody plants.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	80% <u>Woody</u>	15% <u>Forbs</u>	5%
Sideoats grama	15	Range ratany	5
Blue grama		Bushsunflower Menodora	3
Black grama	25	Whitethorn acacia	2
Bush muhly		Catclaw acacia	2
Tobosa	15	Mariola	2
Cane bluestem		Feather dalea	Perennial
		Skeletonleaf	bladderpod
		goldeneye	
Plains bristlegrass	10	Butterflybush	Hairy tubetongue
Green sprangletop			Annual forbs
Arizona cottontop		Creosotebush	
Tanglehead		Tasajillo	
		Cacti	3
Sand dropseed	5	Yucca	
Slim & Rough tridens	5		
Perennial threeawns	5		
Vine-mesquite			
Hairy grama	T		
Ear muhly			
Annual grasses			

- b. With retrogression of the climax plant community, grasses such as slim tridens, threeawns, ear muhly, and fluffgrass become abundant; broom snakeweed and woody plants such as catclaw, whitethorn acacia, creosotebush, tasajillo, and prickly pear tend to dominate the site. This site is not generally suitable for artificial revegetation.
- c. This site in excellent condition produces approximately 1200 pounds air-dry total annual yield per acre in years with favorable growing conditions and about 800 pounds in years with poor growing conditions.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by deer, antelope, quail and dove. Several of the woody plants, forbs, and grasses which grow on the site provide good cover, browse, and seeds.
5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yr.L.</u>	<u>AU/Sec./Yr.L.</u>
Excellent	75-100	29-36	18-22
Good	51-75	26-49	13-18
Fair	26-50	49-80	8-13
Poor	0-25	80-320	2-8

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

## a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Tobosa	Ear muhly
Black grama	Sand dropseed	Annual grasses
Bush muhly	Slim tridens	Acacia species
Cane bluestem	Tanglehead	Mariola
Plains bristlegrass	Butterflybush	Skeletonleaf goldeneye
Blue grama	Bushsunflower	Broom snakeweed
Green sprangletop	Perennial threeawns	Annual forbs
Vine-mesquite	Hairy grama	
Arizona cottontop	Range ratany	

## b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Butterflybush	Range ratany	Broom snakeweed
Bushsunflower		Creosotebush
Menodora		Most grasses
Dalea		
Perennial bladderpod		
Annual forbs		

## c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Range ratany	Annual forbs	Most grasses
Acacia species		Creosotebush
Mariola		Broom snakeweed
Skeletonleaf goldeneye		
Butterflybush		
Menodora		
Dalea species		

## d. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Range ratany	Annual forbs	Creosotebush
Acacia species		Broom snakeweed
Menodora		Blue grama
Purple dalea		Tobosa
Globemallow		
Bladderpod		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.

## e. Antelope

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bushsunflower	Acacia species	Broom snakeweed
Menodora	Tobosa	Creosotebush
Purple dalea		
Blowmallow		
Perennial bladderpod		
Annual forbs		
Butterflybush		
Feather dalea		

## f. Quail and Dove

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Plains bristlegrass	Sand dropseed	Broom snakeweed
Bladderpod		Tobosa
Globe-mallow		Blue grama
Menodora		Bush muhly
Annual forbs		